

Newspaper in Education Presents

# inquiziKIDZ

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE COUNTY'S MAGNET SCHOOLS & ADULT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Can simulators prepare you for the real world?

## Discover the Future

Check out these careers in Criminal Justice:

**Law Enforcement Officer**  
(police or deputy sheriff)

**Corrections Officer**

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:

<http://www.khake.com/page42.html>

OR

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/careers.htm>



**kidzbiz**

### Criminal Justice Champion

**B**randon Edwards, a graduating senior from Bayshore simultaneously attended high school and the Criminal Justice Academy at MTI. A critical component of Brandon's education at the Academy was the G.E. Driver Development Patrol and F.A.T.S. simulated training. Both taught him how to act and react in real world situations. For instance, Brandon learned "shuffle steering", a way to steer the car in real life pursuit situations. For Brandon, the driving simulator was a better teacher than the driving course. "Of course I made mistakes. But it is better to make mistakes on the simulator than on the road."

Using the F.A.T.S. (firearm training simulator), instructors teach weapons precision and safety. The simulator creates scenarios where students practice firearm and shooting skills in real-life situations, forcing students to develop eye-hand coordination, use excellent judgment skills, and how to make correct decisions. According to Brandon using the F.A.T.S. "is kind of like a video and makes learning fun." Both simulators taught Brandon more in-depth skills. "It is all about safety - watching out for other people. It is not just about yourself," says Brandon. Nowhere else could he have learned these valuable skills

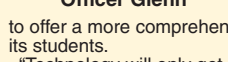
Brandon is a remarkable student. He won two gold metals at the National Skills USA competition recently held in Kansas City. For the past five years, he has been a member of the Manatee Sheriff's Explorers. The Criminal Justice Academy and Sheriffs Explorers has "brought out a champion" in Brandon. He is planning to pursue his career in law enforcement.

**School biz**

### The art of teaching

**O**fficer Glenn has taught at the Criminal Justice Academy for 8 years. For Officer Glenn the simulators offer a high degree of realism in law enforcement training. If the student can demonstrate proper response under simulated conditions, the suitable critical training for the officer has occurred. Simulator training offers the trainee the opportunity to demonstrate appropriate responses under a multitude of stressful conditions. Simulator training forces students to react twice as fast as in real world environments, therefore, excelling the skills of students when they are faced with same or similar real-life situations. This real world expertise adds to increased community safety. Simulators maximize the benefits of training and minimize the time and costs associated with training allowing MTI

to offer a more comprehensive training program for its students. "Technology will only get better and our instructors must know the proper way to use the technology", states Officer Glenn. The focus of simulator training is not only the outcome, but also how the trainees used judgment and decision making skills to reach the outcome. At the MTI Criminal Justice Academy, student feedback is used to measure the effectiveness of the simulator training when students enter the real world. According to Officer Glenn, "using the simulators, students have every taste and flavor for the program. This helps them to decide if a career in law enforcement is really the career they want."



**Officer Glenn**

**Technology and Criminal Justice**

### Simulators, Training and Criminal Justice

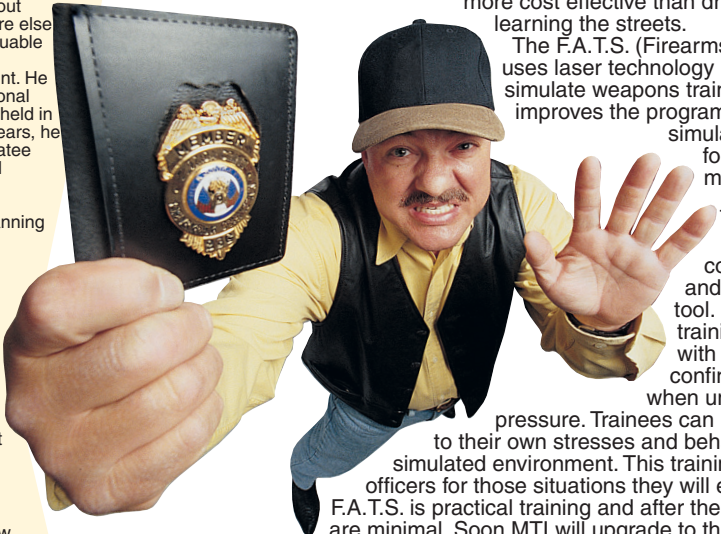
**M**TI offers two programs in the Criminal Justice Academy. First, the Law Enforcement Basic Recruit program is 760 hours long. Cadets, trained as law enforcement officers, are taught firearm proficiency, defensive driving tactics, medical first responder skills, and criminal justice law. Admission criteria include: must be at least 19 years of age, US citizen, possess a high school diploma or GED, of good moral character and have no felony convictions. After successful completion of the program, the applicant is eligible to take the State Certified Examination for Law Enforcement.

The Criminal Justice Academy High School program offers the same rigor as the adult program and prepares juniors and seniors for a career in law enforcement and to continue their studies in the adult program. The high school program is modified from 760 to 540 hours. Students in the program attend their districted high school for three hours per day and MTI three hours a day. Students attend classes in areas such as constitutional and civil rights law, criminal justice defense tactics, law enforcement investigation, and law enforcement traffic. The credit earned in each class transfers to the 760-hour Law Enforcement program. Graduates of the program are trained to work as a corrections officer in a jail setting.

Both programs at the Criminal Justice Academy utilize state-of-the-art simulator technology to increase student's knowledge and skill when presented with real life events and conditions. Simulators are cost effective in time and personnel. For example, the driving simulator saves money for such items as gas, tires, and cars used for defensive driver training.

The G.E. Driver Development Patrol Simulator allows students the opportunity to practice real life driving skills they could not learn driving on a driving course. Using the simulator, students learn how to pursue another car or follow a drunk driver. In addition, at MTI all streets have been mapped and using the simulator students can drive every street in Bradenton. This is much more cost effective than driving around in a car learning the streets.

The F.A.T.S. (Firearms Training System) uses laser technology rather than bullets to simulate weapons training. The F.A.T.S. improves the program's capacity to provide simulated live-fire training for cadets including marksmanship and judgment training. Simulated firearm training offers a consistent, repeatable and documented training tool. F.A.T.S. firearms training provides trainees with feedback to learn and confirm correct decisions when under extreme pressure. Trainees can identify and respond to their own stresses and behaviors in a real-life simulated environment. This training better prepares officers for those situations they will encounter in the field. F.A.T.S. is practical training and after the initial purchase, costs are minimal. Soon MTI will upgrade to the newest version of F.A.T.S. The upgraded simulator will be interactive and verbally respond, providing the trainee with a more realistic simulation of crime.



F.A.T.S. The upgraded simulator will be interactive and verbally respond, providing the trainee with a more realistic simulation of crime.

### explore it

Imagine driving a car in a high- speed chase.  
Imagine flying your own plane.  
Imagine driving the rover on Mars.



Simulators bring your imagination to life - making the impossible possible. Simulators allow you to experience the unknown and improbable in your home. On your computer with web based simulators you can be a virtual pilot, race car driver or police officer.

Research simulators such as driving or flight simulators on the Internet. Or visit <http://marsplanetary.org> and down load a rover vehicle and travel on Mars remotely driving a rover seeing Mars through the rover's "eye."

After the simulated experience answer the following questions.

1. What was the purpose of the simulated experience?
2. Could you use the experience to decide if this is a career you would like to pursue?
3. Could the simulator be used to save time and money? Could it be used to increase training opportunities?
4. Did the experience allow you to "live out a dream?"
5. How realistic was the experience?
6. Was the simulator easy to use?
7. Did you experience the motion of the simulator?



Enjoy your simulated experience!

InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in the Bradenton Herald-East Manatee Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Kristin Lamphron, Education Manager (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031 Darren Falterman, Digital Media Specialist © Knight-Ridder Productions, inc.

**Manatee Technical Institute**

- Sugg Middle School
- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harlee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Haile Middle School
- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDZ



- [www.skillsusa.org](http://www.skillsusa.org)
- <http://www.dc.state.fl.us>
- <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>
- <http://www.fpca.com/stagencies.htm>
- <http://www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/mti/programs/career>